

# OUTREACH

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ONE MINISTRIES (ROTOM)

## Newsletter

### PILGRIMS FOR CARE & DIGNITY: ROTOM@20 Walk “ I will walk in the strength of the Lord God ”.... John Bunyan



**T**en years ago, our Founder and Executive Director, Kenneth Mugayehwenkyi, embarked on an extraordinary journey, trekking 400 kilometers from Muhanga-Kabale to Namubiru-Mukono to raise awareness about the challenges facing older persons, and to celebrate the work ROTOM was doing to alleviate the suffering of thousands of vulnerable seniors across Uganda.

Fast forward to 2023 as we commemorated ROTOM's 20th anniversary, we re-enacted Kenneth's historic endeavor with the ROTOM Walk which started from Watoto Church Bweyogerere to ROTOM headquarters

in Namubiru Mukono.

Kenneth led a group of 20 CEOs and leaders from different sectors (each also representing one year of ROTOM's work). They were joined by a diverse group of committed friends and well-wishers, staff and some of the ROTOM beneficiaries whose lives have been impacted over the years. They were all drawn to this noble cause by a shared desire to make a difference in the lives of older persons.

As we set off on our journey, the air was thick with anticipation. We knew that our footsteps echoed a message of hope and solidarity for older persons; many of whom have been forgotten and

neglected by their loved ones and the communities in which they live.

The walk was not without its challenges. The treacherous narrow road without a sidewalk made it particularly difficult to contend with reckless drivers, motorcyclists and even some animals. But we were determined! We knew that every step we took was a step towards a better future for older persons.

As we drew closer to the ROTOM Center in Namubiru-Mukono, we were received by a jubilant crowd of grateful grannies and children whose lives ROTOM has transformed. They all shared stories of resilience and hope, of

new and safer housing, healthcare and a chance at education. These touching stories inspired us to continue and finish our journey in thanksgiving.

Finally, after what felt like hours of walking, we arrived at ROTOM. We had completed our journey, but our work is far from done. We find solace in the fact that, even in the face of time's relentless march, our determination to uplift the lives of older persons remains resolute. The ROTOM@20 Walk was more than just a physical journey; it was a poignant reminder that the years may pass, but our passion for commitment to older persons still burns with an undying fire.





# 20 YEARS OF CARE & DIGNITY

“Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, His love is eternal... Psalm 136:1”



On Saturday 7th October 2023, ROTOM celebrated its 20th anniversary with an exuberant celebration and thanksgiving at our head office in Namubiru-Mukono, Uganda. The day was marked by a remarkable convergence of guests from across Uganda and around the world; all united by their admiration for ROTOM's mission to ensure that Older Persons Live Dignified and Fulfilled Lives.

The celebration commenced with touching speeches, each one paying tribute to ROTOM's transformative impact on lives over the years. His Grace, the Most Rev. Stephen Kaziimba Mugalu, the Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, was the chief guest and he shared a challenging message; reminding all of us—our responsibility to honor, care for and respect older

persons as a society.

In a collective voice, older persons who have directly benefited from ROTOM's care and support expressed their gratitude. They spoke of the newfound dignity and fulfillment they have experienced since becoming part of the ROTOM family. Their stories were a powerful reminder of ROTOM's profound impact and its message of hope, love, and compassion.

A fascinating turn of events marked the day, as a heavy downpour ensued after a scorching morning. For many, this rain was seen as a blessing. The majority of our supported older persons are peasant farmers, and this rain represented hope – it would nourish their fields, allowing them to grow food to supplement the support they receive from ROTOM.

The celebration reached its emotional zenith with a joyful performance by supported seniors. Their twilight energy and zest for life were true testament to the transformation that ROTOM has brought into their lives. Many of these grannies had previously known hopelessness and neglect, but they now stand tall, as living proof of ROTOM's unwavering commitment to their well-being.

As we celebrate ROTOM's remarkable past, we look forward to an even brighter future, where older persons continue to be at the heart of our mission. Today, we recognize the growing need for elder care and support as people continue to live longer. ROTOM remains determined to create a world where older persons live in dignity and fulfillment by;

- Caring for more vulnerable older persons through ROTOM's Senior Friendship Program.

- Enhancing care for frail and terminally ill older persons through expansion of ROTOM Health Centers and setting up Long Term Care Centers at ROTOM's Village Outreach Centers.

- Supporting older persons to raise children left in their care with emphasis on Character and Skills Development, Innovation & Excellence through the ROTOM School and in the Champions' Project.

Thank you so much for being part of this incredible journey. Your support and commitment have been instrumental to our shared success. We hope that you will continue walking alongside us as we illuminate lives and create a brighter tomorrow for older persons in our communities.



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